

IOWA BIRD LIFE

Winter 1998 Volume 68 Number 1



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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FRONT COVER: Roseate Spoonbill at Waubonsie Wildlife Area, Fremont County, 13 August 1997.
Photo by Stephen J. Dinsmore.

INSIDE BACK COVER: Editorial Staff, Subscription/Membership Information, Instructions to Authors,
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SPRING BIRD COUNT--1997

PETER C. PETERSEN AND JAMES J. DINSMORE

The 1997 spring count was held on 10 May. A total of 18 counties participated (Table 1), up six from 1996 (Petersen 1997). Seven counties participated in 1997 but not in 1996 (Boone, Bremer, Cedar, Dallas, Des Moines, Jackson, and Warren) while one county (Cerro Gordo) did not participate in 1997.

Eleven counties reported 100 or more species with Louisa County again leading with 164 (Table 1). The next highest was Fremont with 154 species followed by Clinton and Johnson which tied for third with 146. In general, species totals were down a bit this year, probably because the spring was so cold and many migrants had not arrived by the time the count was held. As in past years, the strongest geographical coverage was from east-central Iowa with six counties represented. Other sections of the state and their coverage were: northeastern-two, southeastern-three, central-three, south-central-one, northwestern-one, west-central-one, and southwestern-one. No counties in north-central Iowa participated this year.

Table 1. Count statistics for 1997 Iowa spring bird count.

County	Species	Obs.	Parties	Foot	Hours			Miles		
					Car	Feeder	Owling	Foot	Car	Owling
Allamakee	114	6	2	11	8.5	0.5	1	12	105	10
Boone	92	40	2	6	1	2	0	3	40	0
Bremer	56	5	2	5	1	0	0	4	34	0
Cedar	82	5	2	6.5	1.5	2.5	0	?	?	0
Clay	117	5	2	3.5	5	0	0	7	240	0
Clinton	146	7	3	8.5	15	0	6	10	293	101
Dallas	87	5	3	6	5	0	1	5	110	5
Des Moines	54	2	1	2	0	0	0.5	2	0	1
Fremont	153	3	1	3	14	0	1.5	2	203	12
Jackson	126	1	1	7	7	0	1	9.5	210	21
Jefferson	74	15	2	7	2	1	0	3	30	0
Johnson	146	10	7	25	18	2.5	1	15	350	?
Louisa	164	4	2	8	10	0	0.5	6	175	3
Muscatine	128	6	5	?	?	?	0	?	?	0
Polk	101	2	1	4	8	0	0	4	126	0
Scott	128	14	8	22.5	22	2	1	14	336	0
Warren	55	1	1	4	0	0	0	2	0	0
Woodbury	123	3	1	6	9.5	0	1	4	130	0.5
totals	234	134	46	137	127.5	10.5	14.5	102.5	2382	153.5

The species total was 234, down from 244 last year. One hundred thirty-four people participated, more than double the 59 who participated last year. The leader, by far, was Boone County with 40 observers. Participation there was bolstered by having the Des Moines and Big Bluestem Audubon groups join for the count.

Only 22 species were reported from all 18 counties, and an additional seven species were missed by only one county (Table 2). Relatively limited coverage in two or three counties probably accounted for these totals not being greater. On the other hand, 38 species were found in only one county (Table 3). Fremont with eight,

Table 2a. Spring Bird Count Data, 1997.

COUNTY	Co Lo	Ph Bi Gr	Am Wh Pe	Do Cr Co	Am Bi	Gr Bl He	Gr Eg	Gr He	Bl Cr NH	Ca Go	Wo Du	Gr Wi Te	Ma	Bl Wi Te	No Sh	Ga	Am Wi	Ri Ne Du
Allamakee		5	14	112		10	1	3		39	28	1	13	29	7	2	10	
Boone				1						2	4		4		12			1
Bremer			39			6	1	1		106	12	3	7	34	3			
Cedar						2	1			4	3							
Clay	1	5	97	18		2	4	2		254	25	1	64	73	34	26		6
Clinton		27		655		40		1	1	121	49	30	89	82	24		12	3
Dallas		3				1			1	18	12		22	8				
Des Moines										2	1							
Fremont		16	25	49	5	18	5	1		24	15	13	10	250	32	12		3
Jackson	1	17	89	42	1	39	5	4		125	50		21	33	15		7	
Jefferson																		
Johnson		1	400	53		10	7	3		36	22	2	47	200	25	14		2
Louisa		12	40	4		18	8	5	2	60	60	2	12	177	20	1	2	2
Muscatine		2		6		28	5		1	22	18		7	2				
Polk		4		5		9	1			126	4		17	28	37	3		2
Scott				54		31	1	2		38	9		76	7	2			
Warren						1												
Woodbury	1	5		50	1	4	3	1		50	10	2	8	50	4	3		4
No. Individuals	3	97	704	1,049	7	219	42	23	5	1,027	322	54	397	973	215	61	37	17
No. of Counties	3	11	7	12	3	15	12	10	4	16	16	8	14	13	12	7	6	6

COUNTY	Le Sc	Ho Me	Re Br Me	Ru Du	Tu Vu	Os	Ba Ea	Sh Ha	Co Ha	Br Wi Ha	Re Ta Ha	Am Ke	Pe Fa	Ri Ne Ph	Wi Tu	No Bo	Vi Ra	So
Allamakee	1				60			8		3	3			4	11		3	10
Boone				4	8				2	3	7			1				3
Bremer	7									1	3			6				
Cedar					7					2	7	3		3				
Clay	46				8			1	1	5	2			30				2
Clinton	75		6	14	40		1	1	1	1	12	4		40	31		15	27
Dallas				6		2		1		6	8	2		15	2			1
Des Moines				1					1					5				
Fremont	15		3	7	58		1			7	3	1	49	15	1			63
Jackson		4	6		26		3	1		18	3		2	1	1	3		7
Jefferson					4					2		1	2					
Johnson	15		3	13	12		1	1		7	5	1	16	6	5	3		11
Louisa	2	6	1	1	32	1	1	1	2	12	4	5	21	3				3
Muscatine	6	1			25			3	2	5	5	2	13	7	3			
Polk	8				14					3	6	2						
Scott			2		5	1		1		1	7	3		11	3			3
Warren					3									1				
Woodbury	8			2	9					2	3	2		15	4			1
No. Individuals	183	11	21	41	318	4	15	9	9	59	104	36	3	229	88	11	24	131
No. of Counties	10	3	6	6	17	3	6	7	6	11	16	12	3	16	11	5	4	11

Louisa with seven, and Clinton with five had the most of the near misses, but eleven other counties had at least one. Another 17 species were found in only two counties Table 3 for a total of 55 species that were nearly missed. Waterfowl (9 species), shorebirds (11 species), and warblers (12 species) made up a large share of these near misses. Species that were somewhat surprising to find in this near-miss category included Dunlin, Stilt Sandpiper, Golden-winged Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and Canada Warbler.

Species missed unexpectedly include Least Bittern, Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Blue Grosbeak. Thirty species of shorebirds were found, up from 27 in 1996. Other groups that were well represented were waterfowl (24 species), warblers (35 species), and

Table 2b. Spring Bird Count Data, 1997.

COUNTY	Co Mo	Am Co	Sa Cr	Bl	Am	Se Pt	Ki	Gr Ye	Le Ye	So Sa	Sp Wi	Up Sa	Se Sa	Wh		
				Be Pt	Go Pt									Le Sa	Ru Sa	Ba Sa
Allamakee	2	227	3				9	4	20	3	7					
Boone							3			1	1	1			5	
Bremer		100	6			1	5					6				
Cedar			1				3									
Clay		167			81		35	1	9	6	4		34	17		1 21
Clinton		600	10			2	16	5	30	3	5		12	35		2 27
Dallas		13					7	1	1				1		1	
Des Moines																
Fremont	2	664		5		7	80	4	15	3		8	8	2	18	38 15 41
Jackson	4	650	2			1	10	2	11			1				15
Jefferson							7			1	1	2				
Johnson		350		3	12	13	25	21	500	15	2	11	1	15	250	45
Louisa		200		1	80		25	2	21	6		17			40	25
Muscatine		42			40		16	6	4	2		4		2	12	6
Polk		27					3	1	3	2		8				
Scott		115				2	38	2	20	27		4		2	52	5
Warren							2									
Woodbury		4				4	8	1	5		4	3		50	20	50 4 6
No. Individuals	8	3,159	22	9	213	30	292	50	639	69	8	81	10	117	450	89 22 191
No. of Counties	3	13	5	3	4	7	17	12	12	11	4	14	3	7	10	3 4 9

COUNTY	Sh	Do Sp	Co Sn	Am Wo	Wi Ph	Fr Gu	Bo Gu	Ri	He Gu	Ca Te	Co Te	Fo Te	Bl Te	Ro Do	Mo Do	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Ba Ow
	Bi Do							Bi Gu										
Allamakee				3				17				5		60	21		2	4
Boone		1						3						4	5	8	1	2
Bremer												8			1	3		
Cedar															19	12		
Clay		38	3			597	4	79	1	1	2	90	45	34	30			2
Clinton				4		50	4	430	4		4	8	1	39	60		5	13
Dallas			1					2							3	14		1
Des Moines															1			3
Fremont	8				10		1	2				20	1,200	34	400	4	6	23
Jackson								15	5					26	21		2	4
Jefferson			1											20	13			1
Johnson	2	50	1	1	1			30				1	1	16	85	1	5	3
Louisa			1		6			20					8	35	121		5	4
Muscatine								52			2			210	175		5	2
Polk						22		10		3		1		11	31			2
Scott	7						1	15	21	2	2		6	67	65	2	2	3
Warren															4			
Woodbury					2	14		14				1	50	20	25		2	2
No. Individuals	17	89	7	8	19	684	9	689	31	6	10	134	1,315	600	1,089	7	35	69
No. of Counties	3	3	5	3	4	5	3	13	4	3	4	8	8	16	18	3	10	15

sparrows (16 species). Easily the best find of the day was a Black-throated Gray Warbler in Cedar County, only the second record for the state. Unexpected species included three dark ibis in Clinton County, a Prairie Falcon in Dallas County, King Rail in Clinton County, a Whimbrel in Fremont County, 15 Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Fremont County, Western Kingbird in Johnson County, White-eyed Vireos in Clinton and Louisa counties, and Prairie Warblers in Johnson County.

The totals for some common species were very low; only 11 Northern Bobwhite in five counties, 7 Eastern Screech-Owls in three counties, 11 Common Nighthawks in six counties, 3 Scarlet Tanagers in three counties, and 25 Dickcissels in six counties. More than 1,000 individuals of 14 species were found. As usual, the highest count was for Red-winged Blackbird at 6,190. Other species with four-digit

Table 2c. Spring Bird Count Data, 1997.

COUNTY	Co Ni	Wh Po Wi	Ch Sw	Ru Th Hu	Be Ki	Re He Wo	Re Be Wo	Ye Be Sa	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fl	Pl Wo	Ea Wo Pe	Wi Fl	Le Fl	Ea Ph	Gr Cr Fl	We Ki
Allamakee		1	50	1	2	2	9	26	5	2	7	3			1	10		
Boone			16	1	1	12	6		10	1	4	1			8	3	1	
Bremer					1		1		3		1	1						
Cedar				1		14	2		5	1	2				2		2	
Clay			15		4	11	3	1	6	2	15		1		4	1		
Clinton	3		63	1	5	78	18		25	6	25	1			4	21	4	
Dallas			4		1	9	2		6	1	4					1		
Des Moines						6	3		3	2	3					1	3	
Fremont	1	23	65			25	21		15	1	8			1	57	3	9	1
Jackson	2	1	14		1	2	12	2	6	3	9	3	1		1	13	13	
Jefferson			108			2	8		11		2		3		1	4	1	
Johnson		1	17		1	34	11	1	18	5	11				3	4	4	1
Louisa	1	2	22	4	2	63	2		7	4	11	1		6	15	8	7	
Muscatine	3	1	31	2	2	55	13		36	3	13	1			1	12	4	
Polk			16		1	14	3		14	2	1				3	4	4	1
Scott	1		23	3	2	21	18	1	16	6	12		2		1	1	1	
Warren			1	1		6	1		3		2				6	1		
Woodbury		5	5		3		3		8		2			1	4		2	1
No. Individuals	11	34	450	14	26	354	136	31	197	39	132	11	7	8	111	87	55	4
No. of Counties	6	7	15	8	13	16	18	5	18	14	18	7	4	3	15	15	13	4

COUNTY	Ea Ki	Ho La	Pu Ma	Tr Sw	No RW Sw	Ba Sw	Cl Sw	Ba Sw	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Wh Br Nu	Ca Wr	Ho Wr	Se Wr	Ma Wr	Ru Cr Ki
Allamakee		2	9	37	36		3	24	41	21	10	2	13		17			7
Boone	1				30		1	3	20	26	18	16	8		14			18
Bremer				52				2	14	23	4		2					2
Cedar	7				8		2	3	13	12	6	7	3		23			7
Clay	7	1		135	7	4		45	99	45	22		3		7	1		11
Clinton	19	23		106	110	2	2	93	110	127	53	28	24	3	55	1	3	28
Dallas			5	10	6		3	7	15	4	6	1	3		10	2	2	2
Des Moines								3	20	15	2	3	4		2			1
Fremont	18	17	22	12	172	18	221	168	180	30	15	10	23		69	2		2
Jackson	1	1	30	114	124	4	7	5	25	16	13	12	6	1	8	1	4	1
Jefferson	5	1		3			1	10	26	17	17	3	6		10			
Johnson	16	9	4	40	10	2	10	65	163	66	48	17	11		48		15	16
Louisa	32	11	18	124	14	6	20	77	425	64	7	6	3	2	46		1	11
Muscatine	6	6	3	40	28	25	250	90	59	85	49	15	27	1		2	4	1
Polk	9	1		12	5		55	26	13	32	9	2	5		20			7
Scott	5	1	45	16	24	65	1	49	76	72	64	11	14	2	70	1	1	5
Warren				2				5	4	1	6	1	2		14			3
Woodbury	5	4	12	11	8	50		12	15	10	20		2		50		1	1
No. Individuals	131	77	148	714	582	176	576	687	1,318	666	369	134	159	9	463	10	31	123
No. of Counties	13	12	9	15	14	9	13	18	18	18	18	15	18	5	16	7	8	17

totals were Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, American Coot, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, American Robin, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow. Perhaps the most surprising species on that list was the Black Tern as the others are common residents or migrants. The Black Tern count was inflated by the 1,200 reported in Fremont County which was also the highest total for any species within a single county. Several reports of unusual species or late dates were undocumented and deleted. This count is part of a nation-wide effort, like the Christmas Bird Counts, and could provide much more useful data if more counties contributed a thorough count.

The lateness of the spring was evident by the relative abundance of some species. For instance, few Tennessee Warblers, only two Blackpoll Warblers, and three

Table 2d. Spring Bird Count Data, 1997.

COUNTY	Bl Gr Gn	Ea Bl	Gr Ch Th	Sw Th	Wo Th	Am Ro	Gr Ca	Br Th	Ce Wa	Lo Sh	Eu St	Be Vi	So Vi	Ye Th Vi	Wa Vi	Re Ey Vi	Bl Wi Wa	
Allamakee	4	1		1	2	123	5	4			75			3	5			
Boone	22	5				5	1	5			3		1	4	1			
Bremer		1				28		2			15							
Cedar	9	1	1	3		32	16	3			34		2	2		1	2	
Clay		9		1	3	94	7	21			125							
Clinton	22	11	2	4	8	66	37	40		1	250		4	4	20			
Dallas		4		1		90	3	6		1	54	1	1		1			
Des Moines	1	1			1	4	5	1			6			1			1	
Fremont	5	6			19	2	99	27	57	14	8	43	2	3	9	3		
Jackson	20	2	1	1	2	3	47	23	7	1	20		2		8	4	4	
Jefferson	2	4		1		27	12	2			11		1		5			
Johnson	9	3		2	5	1	175	36	30		1	200	6	2	6		1	
Louisa	5	6	3	8	2		176	14	37		1	273	1	2	3	12	1	2
Muscatine	28	14	2			3	199	34	31	3		263	1	3	14	6	1	
Polk	7	6		2	1		48	24	6	5		127		1	1	6		
Scott	5	6	2	1	10	1	192	26	22		157	3	2	3	10	1	4	
Warren					4		8	6	10			5		3	2			
Woodbury	5	3			5		19	12	17		12	2		3	4	2		
No. Individuals	144	83	11	24	61	13	1,432	288	301	23	12	1,673	7	28	32	103	18	15
No. of Counties	14	17	6	10	12	7	18	17	18	4	5	18	4	13	12	14	7	7

COUNTY	Te Wa	Or Cr Wa	Na Wa	No Pa	Ye Wa	Ch Si Wa	Ma Wa	Ca Ma Wa	Ye Ru Wa	BT Gr Wa	Bl Wa	Ye Th Wa	Pa Wa	Ce Wa	Bl Wh Wa	Am Re	Pr Wa	Ov
Allamakee	1		25	2	11				63		2		19	1	7	10	1	
Boone		4	1		1				36			4	1		4			
Bremer			2		12				26				17					
Cedar	1	1	4		2				50	5			35		13	16	1	20
Clay		8	3		5				140				14		5			
Clinton	3	3	26		14		1	4	150	2			89		21	26	3	6
Dallas		6							8				1					
Des Moines					1				9				1		2			10
Fremont	1	3	2		16	1	1		249				1	1	4		4	
Jackson			2		9			1	71	6			13		11	9	1	6
Jefferson			3	1	1				6		2		5		1	2		1
Johnson		2	10		10				85	1		3	59	1	12	17		10
Louisa	12	4	28	3	40	6	12	2	68	6		1	36		6	40	3	6
Muscatine	16		7	1	33	3	2		157	11	2	1	18	2	17	6		6
Polk		3	2	6	5				64				3		1			3
Scott		2	4	2	12	3	7		39	8			30		10	11	5	9
Warren	1	11	3		1				25				5		5	2		
Woodbury		2	1			5			7				4		1			7
No. Individuals	35	49	123	15	173	18	23	7	1,253	38	7	9	350	5	117	143	14	88
No. of Counties	7	12	16	6	16	5	5	3	18	6	4	4	17	4	16	11	6	12

Mourning Warblers were reported while the early arriving Yellow-rumped Warbler was still very abundant. Likewise among the thrushes, relatively few of the four typical May thrushes (Gray-cheeked, Swainson's, Veery, Wood Thrush) were reported and there were also two late reports of Hermit Thrush, a species typically gone by early May. Normally common species such as Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, and Black-and-white Warbler were all reported on fewer than half of the counts.

This, the fifth of the recent spring counts held in Iowa (see Petersen 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 for summaries of previous counts) was the most successful in both the number of counts held and participants. Although the number of species was down slightly from last year, the number being reported on these counts seems to be steady in the 220 to 230 range. When these counts were reestablished in 1993, it was hoped

Table 2e. Spring Bird Count Data, 1997.

COUNTY	Ro										Cl									
	No Wa	Lo Wa	Ke Wa	Co Ye	Wi Wa	Sc Ta	No Ca	Ro Br	In Bu	Oi	Ea To	Ch Sp	Cl Co Sp	Fi Sp	Ve Sp	La Sp	Sa Sp	Gr Sp	So Sp	
Allamakee	22			1	1		18	39	2		5	14		3			4		18	
Boone					2		12	10	1		2	18		6			1		2	
Bremer					3		5	1			19					1		6		
Cedar	12	1		5	2		18	3	2	1	1	13	3	4	2		1	18		
Clay	4			4	3		3	7				60	37	10	14		3	15		
Clinton	16	1	1	17		1	105	9	3		6	86	1	33	24	4	20	1	58	
Dallas					4		4	4				5		5		2		10		
Des Moines			1	2			5		1		3	11		1				3		
Fremont	4	1	3	24	4		41	18	3	15	39	63	8	24	4	23	26	15		
Jackson	1	2		9		1	15	7			22	25		14				22		
Jefferson	3			8	2		26	9	1		6	1	16					9		
Johnson	13			19	1		120	20		2	38	7	23	2	4	6		61		
Louisa	17	2	2	34	3	1	54	37	4	4	19	50	7	37	6	1	4	11	34	
Muscatine	1	1		19	2		135	25	2	3	35	46		38	2	6	2	8	32	
Polk	2			10	2		27	5	1	1		45	1	2	5		1	1	21	
Scott	5			10	2		57	26	4	1	7	48		14					32	
Warren	4						12	2				4		2	2	1			3	
Woodbury				3			4	12			2	4	12	15	2	2	6	2	2	
No. Individuals	104	8	7	171	25	3	701	234	24	25	144	555	77	247	57	26	71	50	361	
No. of Counties	13	6	4	16	11	3	18	17	11	6	13	18	9	17	8	9	11	7	18	

COUNTY	Li Sp		Wh Th Sp		Wh Cr Sp		Ha Sp		Bo		Re Wi Bl		Ea Me		Ye He Bl		Gr Ta Gr		Co Gr		Br He Co		Or Or		Ba Or		Ho Fi		Am Go		Ho Sp	
	Allamakee		10		12		1		3		516		15		3		45				76		305		1		21			26		64
Boone		1		4		2		1	18		24		2			6		1		4		14			3		4		30		4	
Bremer										152						10				23		5							2		1	
Cedar			2	50					13	200		1							21		15				2			63		130		
Clay		5	8	41		32	24		9	625				25	107		1		227		89			7	35		26		162			
Clinton		1	7	38		12		19	1,086	37		10	101					680		398				19	36		106		230			
Dallas			1	1	1	22	1		20	6		2	25					12		10		4			2		34		29			
Des Moines				3		1			60		1							7		1				1	1		17		1			
Fremont		6	3	27		7	34		550	8	72	380	60		172		127		127		90		3	42	13		40		35			
Jackson		10		18					1,150	3	1	20			280		90							1	6		315		28			
Jefferson		1	2	45					41		7				12		4		19		1		8	2		10		22				
Johnson		15	10	50		28	3	17	550	8	7				200		125		2	15	25		2	15	25		103		350			
Louisa		1	10	37		23		3	311	28	12			1	323		241		2	32	25		3	25		93		208				
Muscatine		2	1	212		104		2	367	19	7				270		171						17	16		130		254				
Polk		1	2	14		2			87		2	7			52		35						11	5		31		47				
Scott		1	2	64		16			433		22	2			160		42						28	47		159		169				
Warren			1	20					3		1				5		10						3	4		8		4				
Woodbury		3		8		1	6	2	15		5	2	8	3	18		10		2	12	12		2	12		19		12				
No. Individuals	37	69	653	230	90	87	6,190	165	150	702	78	2,534	1,707	15	222	233	1,212	1,750														
No. of Counties	11	14	18	13	6	10	18	16	12	9	6	18	18	7	16	15	18	18	7	16	15	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	

that they would do two things: encourage birders to get out and participate in a big day count at a time of year when many species are in Iowa and also develop a data base showing species totals from throughout Iowa. In the long-term, it was hoped that this data base would be useful in quantifying the relative numbers and regional locations of spring birds in Iowa, especially many of the May migrants. Although the coverage to date has shown some growth, it still is far from complete for the state. Also, some of the counts have been very limited in their scope and thus of doubtful comparative value. Even so, there probably are some groups for which some analysis of the data may be useful. If the spring counts are to meet their potential, it will take continued growth of the coverage so that more counties are represented and the willingness by Iowa birders to make use of these data to try to better understand

Table 3. Species reported on only one or two of the spring bird counts in Iowa, May 1997.

Horned Grebe	Woodbury (1)
Eared Grebe	Johnson (1), Woodbury (4)
Cattle Egret	Fremont (2), Louisa (1)
Ibis species	Clinton (3)
Mute Swan	Bremer (2)
Greater White-fronted Goose	Fremont (1)
Snow Goose	Fremont (33)
Northern Pintail	Jackson (12)
Canvasback	Clinton (6)
Redhead	Clay (25)
Common Goldeneye	Polk (1)
Bufflehead	Clay (2), Clinton (1)
Common Merganser	Jackson (8)
Northern Harrier	Boone (1), Clay (1)
Red-shouldered Hawk	Jackson (1), Louisa (1)
Prairie Falcon	Dallas (1)
Gray Partridge	Allamakee (2)
King Rail	Clinton (1)
Piping Plover	Fremont (2), Woodbury (3)
American Avocet	Johnson (2)
Whimbrel	Fremont (1)
Hudsonian Godwit	Fremont (6), Johnson (8)
Marbled Godwit	Woodbury (4)
Ruddy Turnstone	Clay (1), Fremont (2)
Sanderling	Fremont (3)
Western Sandpiper	Fremont (2), Woodbury (1)
Dunlin	Johnson (4)
Stilt Sandpiper	Fremont (6)
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Fremont (15)
Chuck-will's-widow	Louisa (2)
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Louisa (2)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Boone (1)
Brown Creeper	Allamakee (2), Louisa (2)
Winter Wren	Allamakee (1), Jefferson (1)
Hermit Thrush	Louisa (1), Scott (1)
American Pipit	Clay (6), Johnson (1)
White-eyed Vireo	Clinton (2), Louisa (1)
Golden-winged Warbler	Louisa (2)
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Clinton (1)
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Cedar (1)
Pine Warbler	Johnson (2)
Prairie Warbler	Johnson (2)
Blackpoll Warbler	Louisa (2)
Worm-eating Warbler	Louisa (1)

Connecticut Warbler	Louisa (1)
Mourning Warbler	Clinton (3)
Hooded Warbler	Louisa (1), Muscatine (1)
Canada Warbler	Louisa (1)
Summer Tanager	Fremont (5)
Spotted Towhee	Clay (1)
Le Conte's Sparrow	Louisa (2)
Dark-eyed Junco	Allamakee (1)
Purple Finch	Scott (6)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Louisa (12), Muscatine (25)

the abundance and distribution of birds in Iowa during the mid May period. This project was started through the perseverance of the senior author. With his untimely death, it is hoped that others will continue the project so that that potential may be met and perhaps exceeded.

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FIFTY YEARS AGO IN IOWA BIRD LIFE

In the lead article in the March 1948 issue of *Iowa Bird Life*, William Youngworth discussed color phases of Red-tailed Hawks in Iowa and pointed out that both dark and light colored birds occur in Iowa. The results of the 1947 Christmas Bird Count presented data from 15 counts around the state. A total of 73 species were found including a Prairie Falcon at Sioux City, 6 Oldsquaws at Davenport, and 2 Bohemian Waxwings at Dubuque. Only 11 waterfowl species and 9 Bald Eagles were found, a far cry from recent years. Perhaps the most interesting article is one by Bruce Stiles on the migration of the blue phase of the Snow Goose through Iowa. He pointed out that previously, those birds were rare in Iowa but in fall 1947, there had been an unprecedented migration through the state. He was concerned that hunting would be harmful to this color phase and urged that hunters not shoot too many. Just the opposite is true nowadays with Snow Goose numbers at all-time highs and conservation agencies trying to find ways to reduce their numbers before they have a harmful effect on their arctic habitats. Again, times change.--ed.

FIELD REPORTS--FALL 1997

THOMAS H. KENT

WEATHER

August was moderately cooler and dryer than normal. September was moderately warmer and slightly drier than normal with the most severe cold front on the 21st to 23rd. October was slightly warmer and moderately drier than normal with a light freeze on the 14th and hard freezes on the 20th and 26th. The warm weather up to mid-October resulted in leaves being retained on trees for several weeks longer than usual--nearly up to Thanksgiving. The cool weather of late October continued through November producing temperatures moderately below average and continued dry conditions. The coldest day in November was on the 16th, and temperatures were above normal after the 25th.



GENERAL TRENDS

The dry conditions produced only fair shorebird habitat, and reports of large waterfowl concentrations were limited to Pool 9 on the Mississippi River. The relatively mild weather in August and September was associated with few outstanding days for warblers. Dennis Carter may have spoken for others when he said, "This was the most uneventful of eight falls that I have spent in Decorah. Warblers arrived later than usual and were generally scarce. Only sparrows were present in average numbers." The most noticeable trend was the influx of northern birds, which began in August with the widespread occurrence of Red-breasted Nuthatches and continued with reports of Purple Finch, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, both crossbills, Common Redpoll, and Pine Grosbeak. It always amazes me that we continue to get many new early and late date records each year. One would expect such occurrences to reach a limit. This fall there were 14 new late dates and 5 new early dates, a ratio that fits with the prolongation of mild weather to mid-October.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species that were reported include Roseate Spoonbill, Eurasian Collared-Dove, White-winged Dove, and MacGillivray's Warbler. Casual species that were reported include Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, White-faced Ibis, California Gull, Sabine's Gull, and Pine Grosbeak. In the exotic species category, eight Egyptian Geese were seen and photographed near Lake View in Sac County in late September or early October (Mike Mahn fide JJD).

SPECIES DATA (* = documented); [] = record date

- Red-throated Loon:** All: 1 in basic plumage was at Clear L. in Cerro Gordo Co. on 29 Oct (*CJF)[3rd earliest].
- Pacific Loon:** All: 1 in basic plumage was at Spirit L. on 2, 5, and 11 Aug (*ETH-photo, *LAS) [record earliest], and 1 in basic plumage was at Saylorville Res. on 21-22 Nov (*BE)[3rd latest].
- Common Loon:** First: 2 on 2 Aug at Spirit L. (ETH-photo). Last: 26 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. (THK). High count: 23 at Coralville Res. and L. Macbride on 8 Nov (CE). Another August bird was at Hallett's Quarry on the 31st (John Snyder fide JJD). All other reports were from 25 Oct to 14 Nov.
- Pied-billed Grebe:** High count: 250 in Dickinson Co. on 18 Oct (LAS).
- Horned Grebe:** First: 2 on 27 Aug at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (JLF). Last: 3 on 26 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. (JLF). High counts: 17 on 18 Oct at Spirit L. (LAS) and 24 on 8 Nov at Coralville Res. and L. Macbride (CE).
- Eared Grebe:** All: 17 Sep at Harrier M. (JJD), 1 on 18 and 2 on 25 Oct at Spirit L. (LAS), and 19 Nov at West Okoboji (ETH).
- Western Grebe:** All: 15 Nov at Black Hawk L. (PE), 17-18 Nov at Spirit L. (ETH, LAS), 2 on 19 Nov at Red Rock Res. (MPr), and 27 Nov at West Okoboji (LAS).
- American White Pelican:** Last: 15 Nov at Black Hawk L. (PE). High count: 1,400 on 12 Aug at Runnells W.A. (SJD). This species is now common across the state.
- Double-crested Cormorant:** High count: 300 at Rathbun Res. on 20 Sep (TNJ).
- American Bittern:** All: 4 Aug at Forney L. (SJD), 20-21 Sep at Coralville Res. (CE, MPr, m.ob.), 7 Oct in Warren Co. (AB), 15 Oct at Union Hills in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF), and 16 Nov at Black Hawk M. (Brent Danielson fide JJD)[3rd latest except for winter records].
- Least Bittern:** All: 2 on 4 Aug (SJD) and 1 on 6 Aug (MPr, THK) at Forney L. and 1 on 13 Aug at Waubonsie W.A. (JLF).
- Great Blue Heron:** High counts: 228 on 3 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK) and 130 on 5 Aug at Waubonsie W.A. (THK).
- Great Egret:** Last: 10 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. (JLF). High counts: 303 at Waubonsie W.A. on 13 Aug (SJD, JJD) and 175 at Saylorville Res. on 12 Oct (DT).
- Snowy Egret:** Last: 1 in Appanoose Co. on 6 Sep (RLC). High count: 17 (3 ad., 14 imm.) at Waubonsie W.A. on 14 Aug (SJD). Other reports were of singles at Forney L. on 4 Aug (SJD), Runnells W.A. on 9 Aug (SJD), and Spring Run W.A. in Dickinson Co. on 15 Aug (ETH).
- Little Blue Heron:** Last: 1 imm. on 11 Oct at Saylorville Res. (BE)[ties record latest]. High count: 28 (17 ad., 7 first year, 4 calico) on 13 Aug at Waubonsie W.A. (SJD, JJD). The only other location was at Big M. where 2 immatures were seen on 1 Aug (MPr).
- Cattle Egret:** High count: 100 on 5 Aug at Waubonsie W.A. (THK). None were reported from other locations.
- Green Heron:** Last: 11 Oct at Heron Bend in Lee Co. (CE).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** All: up to 6 at Waubonsie W.A. from 5 to 13 Aug (m.ob.), 1 in Dickinson Co. on 11 Aug (LAS), 2 on 10 Oct at Maffitt Res. (DT), and 1 at Ames on 10 Oct (JJD).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** All: 1 imm. on 4 Aug at Waubonsie W.A. (SJD).
- Ibis species:** A dark ibis was seen at Black Hawk M. in Sac Co. on 13 Oct (Terry Hulsebus fide JJD).
- White-faced Ibis:** A dark ibis with a red eye was at Harrier M. on 15 Aug (*ETH).
- Roseate Spoonbill:** An immature bird was found at Waubonsie W.A. on 4 Aug (*SJD-photos) and seen by many others through 13 Aug (*MPr, *THK, *JLF). This is the second Iowa record.
- Tundra Swan:** First: 5 on 24 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 1,500 (plus 1,500 in Wisconsin) on 30 Nov above Lock and Dam 9 in Allamakee Co. (CE). Other reports were from Dickinson Co., Clear L., and L. Manawa.
- Trumpeter Swan:** All: 8 ad. on 10 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. (JLF), 1 ad. and 1 imm. on 27 Nov at Cedar L. (JLF), and 2 ad. and 1 imm. on 27-28 Nov at Black Hawk L. (PE, ETH).
- Mute Swan:** All: immatures were south of Iowa City on 14 Nov (JLF) and at Pleasant Creek L. on 25 Nov (JLF).
- Snow Goose:** Apparently over-summering birds were noted in August at Forney L., Riverton A., Woodbury Co., Runnells W.A., Midwest Energy Ponds in Pottawattamie Co., and Rock Creek S.P.

Ross's Goose: All: 1 on 26 Oct at East Okoboji (ETH) and 3 on 2, 12 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Wood Duck: 1 ad. with 8 yg. were at West Okoboji on 8 Aug (JJ).

Green-winged Teal: High count: 222 on 2 Nov at L. Macbride (CE).

American Black Duck: First: 1 on 1 Sep at DU Marsh in Clay Co. (LAS).

Northern Pintail: 1 was at Harrier M. on 11 Aug (SJD).

Blue-winged Teal: High count: 950 on 5 Sep at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Cinnamon Teal: 1 male on 2 May 1997 was at Dugout Sl. in Dickinson Co. (Rob Thelen) not at Big Creek as previously reported (PJW, *IBL* 67:86).

Northern Shoveler: High count: 300 on 13 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Gadwall: High count: 150 on 27 Sep at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

Canvasback: High count: 10,000 on 29 Oct at Pool 9 in Allamakee Co. (THK).

Redhead: 2 broods were at Grover L. in Dickinson Co. on 6 Aug (SJD).

Greater Scaup: All: 2 on 10 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. (JLF), 1 on 16 Nov at Spirit L. (LAS), 1 on 23 Nov at Rathbun Res. (RLC), and 4 on 30 Nov at L. Ahquabi (JSI).

Lesser Scaup: Males were noted on 5 Aug at Forney L. and Midwest Energy Ponds and on 9 Aug at Red Rock Res. (SJD).

Oldsquaw: Reports from 30 Oct to 28 Nov were from Spirit L., Union Grove S.P., L. Manawa, Cedar L., Saylorville Res., and Three Mile L. in Union Co.

Surf Scoter: All: 2 on 8 Nov at Pool 9 (MPr).

White-winged Scoter: All: 6 on 29 Oct at Clear L. (CJF), 1 on 5 Nov at Rice L. (CJF), 1 on 6 Nov at Lock and Dam 18 (JLF), 5 on 8 Nov at Rathbun Res. (RLC), 2 on 9 Nov at Black Hawk L. (PE), and 2 on 30 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Bufflehead: A female on 13 Aug at Kettleson Hogsback A. (LAS) is one of few summer records and the first August record. High count: 110 on 11 Nov in Dickinson Co. (LAS).

Hooded Merganser: High counts: 40 on 14 Nov at Coralville Res. and L. Macbride (THK) and 70 on 15 Nov at Gray's L. in Des Moines (PJW).

Common Merganser: First: a female on 29 Oct at Rock Creek S.P. (MPr)(3rd earliest). High count: 115 on 22 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). The usual large flocks were not reported.

Red-breasted Merganser: First: 29 Oct at Rock Creek S.P. (MPr) and Pool 9 (JLF).

Ruddy Duck: High count: 168 on 13 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Turkey Vulture: High count: 57 on 13 Oct at Coralville Res. (CE).

Osprey: First: 1 Aug at Spirit L. (ETH). Last: 16 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Other August sightings were from Rathbun Res., Mason City, and Fairview Access in Sioux Co.

Mississippi Kite: The 21 May 1997 sighting at Greenwood P. in Des Moines was followed by sightings of 1 bird on 21 to 23 May and 3 birds on 24 May (PJW, *IBL* 67:86). Up to 2 were seen regularly at 137 51st St. in Des Moines until 5 Aug (PJW).

Bald Eagle: High count: 72 on 27 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr). That is a lot of eagles for an interior location in the state away from a reservoir.

Northern Harrier: 2 ad. and 2 imm. at Hayden Prairie in Howard Co. on 16 Aug may indicate nesting there (CRN).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: First: 1 was found dead beneath a power pole and holding a House Sparrow at Algona on 13 Aug (MCK). High count: 115 on 5 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr).

Cooper's Hawk: First: 1 imm. at Spirit Lake on 26 Aug (ETH).

Northern Goshawk: All: 28 Sep at Waterman Creek in O'Brien Co. (LAS), 16 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (*RGo), 5 Nov at Mason City (JLW), 8 Nov at Pool 9 (MPr), and 30 Nov at Spirit L. (LAS).

Red-shouldered Hawk: All: 4 were at Grammer Grove W.A. on 27 Oct, and 10 were sighted there during the fall (BPr). Another was at L. Macbride on 13 Nov (JLF).

Broad-winged Hawk: First: 14 Aug near Mason City (CJF). Last: 28 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC). High count: 1,500 including 2 flocks of 500 at Coralville Res. on 20 Sep (BPr, m.ob.).

Swainson's Hawk: All: 2 ad. and 1 imm. north of Mason City on 14 Aug (CJF), 1 on 27 Sep at Stone S.P. (BFH), 22 on 28 Sep along the Little Sioux R. in Clay Co. (LAS), 16 north of Boone on 30 Sep (Mike Havlik fide JJD), and 4 on 14 Oct and 5 in late Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr).

Red-tailed Hawk: High count: 118 on 19 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr). Krider's hawks were noted near Sioux Center on 12 Sep and 1 Oct (JV).

- Rough-legged Hawk:** First: 22 Oct in Emmet Co. (MCK).
- Golden Eagle:** All: 1 on 13, 1 on 19, and 3 on 27 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr); 2 on 29 Oct at Mallard M. in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF); 1 on 21 Nov and 1 on 30 Nov in Allamakee Co. (JLF, CE); and 2 on 23 Nov at Clay Banks A. in Cerro Gordo Co. (*RGo, CRN, CJF).
- American Kestrel:** 20 were along 5 miles in Sioux Co. on 11 Aug (JV).
- Merlin:** First: 2 on 13 Aug at Mallard M. in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF-details)[record earliest]. Last: 19 Nov at Hawarden (JV). Singles were reported at 10 other locations from 6 Sep to 4 Nov.
- Peregrine Falcon:** Singles were reported from 12 locations from 3 Aug to 17 Oct (m.ob), and 4 were seen at Grammer Grove W.A. on 27 Sep (BPr).
- Gray Partridge:** Birds were reported from Cerro Gordo, Fayette, Grundy, Marshall, and Sioux counties.
- Ruffed Grouse:** Singles were seen at Yellow River F. on 29 Oct and 30 Nov (JLF, CE).
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** A report is referred to the Records Committee.
- Wild Turkey:** A female was flushed from a nest with 17 eggs in a farm field in Cerro Gordo Co. on 20 Oct and incubated for 3 more days before abandoning the nest (CRN).
- Northern Bobwhite:** 1 heard on 24 Aug at Moorehead P. in Ida Co. was a first local sighting for Pete Emzen.
- Yellow Rail:** All: 1 at Sedan Bottoms (a new area) in Appanoose Co. was found on 28 Sep (RLC) and it or another was there on 19 Oct (RLC, TNJ).
- King Rail:** All: 1 at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. on 27 Aug (LAS).
- Virginia Rail:** All: 2 on 14 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).
- Sora:** Last: 28 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 22 on 14 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).
- Common Moorhen:** All: 1 ad. with 4 half-grown young at Forney L. on 6 Aug (THK).
- American Coot:** At Grover L. on 6 Aug, 178 plus many broods were seen (SJD, LAS). High count: 50,000 on 15 Oct at Spirit L. (ETh).
- Sandhill Crane:** All: 1 (more heard) on 21 Aug at Otter Creek M. (MPr), 4 on 23 Aug at Big M. (MPr), and 11 to late Oct at Sweet M. (Darrin Siefken fide JJD).
- Black-bellied Plover:** First: 5 Aug at Riverton A. (SJD). Last: 6 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 8 on 15 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).
- American Golden-Plover:** First: 5 Aug at Riverton A. (SJD). Last: 20 on 25 Oct in Pocahontas Co. (JV). High count: 157 on 3 Oct at Hubbard (MPr).
- Semipalmated Plover:** Last: 28 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 97 on 9 Aug at Runnells W.A. (SJD).
- Piping Plover:** All: 1 at Midwest Energy Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. on 8 Aug (PE) and 1 to 3 at Saylorville Res. on 10, 11 Aug (PHA/RIA, BE, DT, SJD).
- Killdeer:** High counts: 232 on 5 Aug at Riverton A. (SJD), 217 on 9 Aug at Runnells A. (SJD), and 130 on 1 Sep at Fort Atkinson in Winneshiek Co. (DeC).
- American Avocet:** First: 5 Aug at Dunbar Sl. (MPr). Last and high count: 12 at Union Slough N.W.R. from 12 Oct to 2 Nov (MCK). From 1 to 3 were reported at 4 other locations.
- Greater Yellowlegs:** Last: 14 Nov at Hawarden (JV).
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** Last: 10 Nov at Bacon Creek in Woodbury Co. (BHF). High count: 260 on 24 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).
- Solitary Sandpiper:** Last: 2 on 28 Sep at L. Macbride (THK). High count: 17 on 9 Aug at Runnells A. (SJD).
- Willet:** All: 1 on 10 Aug at Saylorville Res. (PHA/RIA, BE) and 2 on 12 Aug at Red Rock Res. (MPr, SJD).
- Upland Sandpiper:** Last: 31 Aug in Dallas Co. (MPr). Others were seen in Dickinson, Fremont, Marshall, and Osceola counties.
- Hudsonian Godwit:** All: A flock of 26 in basic plumage were at Saylorville Res. on 9 Aug (*SJD-photo).
- Marbled Godwit:** All: 1 on 14 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK-details) and 2 on 5 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK-details).
- Ruddy Turnstone:** All: 1 on 9 Aug at Midwest Energy Ponds (PE), 1 on 10 Aug and 6 Sep at Saylorville Res. (PHA/RIA, BE, MPr), and 2 on 12 Aug at Red Rock Res. (MPr, SJD).

- Sanderling:** First: 2 each on 10 Aug at Saylorville Res. (BE) and Dunbar Sl. (ETH). Last: 20 Sep at West Okoboji (ETH). Up to 3 were at 4 other locations.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** High count: 276 on 12 Aug at Runnells W.A. (SJD).
- Western Sandpiper:** First: 2 molting ad. on 9 Aug at Runnells W.A. (SJD). Last: 1 juv. molting to basic on 22 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (*MCK)[3rd latest]. Other singles were at Runnells W.A. on 12 Aug (SJD, MPr) and Welch L. in Dickinson Co. on 13 Sep (LAS).
- Least Sandpiper:** Last: 26 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 87 on 5 Aug at Riverton A. (SJD).
- White-rumped Sandpiper:** All: 2 were at Coralville Res. on 6 Oct (*THK). They were found by James Huntington on 2, 5, and 8 Oct.
- Baird's Sandpiper:** First: 2 on 11 Aug near Sioux Center (JV). Last: 2 on 12 Sep at Doon in Lyon Co. (JV). High count: 11 on 6 Sep at Saylorville Res. (MPr).
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** Last: 16 Nov at L. Anita (PHA/RIA). High count: 1,137 (SJD) and 1,500 (THK) on 5 Aug at Riverton A.
- Dunlin:** First: 3 on 28 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 3 on 14 Nov at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (THK, JLF). High count: 22 on 19 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).
- Stilt Sandpiper:** Last: 6 on 26 Oct at Saylorville Res. (BE)[ties 2nd latest]. Other rather late birds were 1 on 19 Oct at Runnells W.A. (JSi) and 4 on 22 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High counts: 124 on 12 Aug at Runnells W.A. (SJD) and 142 on 28 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** All: 5 on 3 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK), 7 on 5 Aug (SJD) and 4 on 13 Aug (JLF) at Riverton A., 5 on 13 Aug at Little Swan L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS), and 1 on 14 Aug at sod farm near Mason City (CRN).
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** Last: 10 on 5 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK). High count: 16 on 26 Aug at Coralville Res. (THK).
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** First: 1 alt. on 9 Aug at Runnells W.A. (SJD). Last: 1 on 12 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 82 on 19 Oct at Runnells W.A. (JSi).
- American Woodcock:** 1 was in Polk Co. on 21 Oct (BE).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** Last: 17 Oct at Coralville Res. (*THK, *RGo)[record latest by almost 3 weeks]. Only 3 others were reported, all in August.
- Red-necked Phalarope:** First: 1 1st basic on 7 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Last: 3 on 18 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). From 1 to 6 were reported at 5 other locations.
- Franklin's Gull:** Last: 3 on 8 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RLC). High counts: 20,000 on 13 Sep and 11 Oct in Dickinson Co. (LAS), 30,000 on 4 Oct at Saylorville Res. (JJD), and 40,000 on 16 Oct at Red Rock Res. (AB). An unusual fall concentration in eastern Iowa was 2,000 at L. Macbride on 9 Oct (THK).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** First: 1 in basic plumage at Kettleson Hogsback A. on 6 Aug (LAS, SJD). High count: 62 on 23 Oct at Hallett's Quarry (HZ). Only small numbers were reported.
- Ring-billed Gull:** 560 were in Dickinson Co. on 6 Aug (SJD); otherwise, numbers were not reported for the usual large fall concentrations.
- California Gull:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.
- Herring Gull:** First: A first-summer bird was at Saylorville Res. on 11 Aug (SJD).
- Thayer's Gull:** A first-winter bird was at Spirit L. on 9 Nov (*LAS).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** All: A second-basic bird was at Coralville Res. from 8 to 17 Oct (*JLF, *THK, *CE).
- Glaucous Gull:** All: 1 first-basic on 22 Nov at De Soto N.W.R. (AB).
- Great Black-backed Gull:** All: A first-basic bird was at West Okoboji on 8 Nov (*LAS)[3rd earliest].
- Sabine's Gull:** All: 1 juv. on 7 Sep at Saylorville Res. was chased off by a Peregrine Falcon (*BE); another juv. was at Coralville Res. on 9 Oct (*THK, *JLF, *CE).
- Caspian Tern:** First: 6 Aug at Kettleson Hogsback A. (LAS). Last: 3 on 27 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC). High count: 49 on 19 Sep at Hendrickson M. (HZ).
- Common Tern:** All: 1 imm. on 8 Oct at Big Creek L. (JJD-details).
- Forster's Tern:** Last: 5 on 18 Oct at Spirit L. (LAS). High count: 26 on 6 Aug at Spirit L. (SJD).
- Least Tern:** All: 1 on 5 Aug at Riverton A. (THK), 1 ad. and 1 juv. on 9 and 13 Aug at Midwest Energy Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (PE, SJD), 2 ad. feeding 3 juv. on 16 Aug at Saylorville Res. (BE), and 1 on 31 Aug at Harrier M. (PHA/RIA-photo).

- Black Tern:** Last: 2 on 5 Sep at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (THK). High count: 133 on 16 Aug at Saylorville Res. (BE).
- Eurasian Collared-Dove:** From 1 to 5 were reported from the north side of Grinnell in Poweshiek Co. from 30 Aug through the end of the period (*JLF, *THK, *MPr, *CE, *RIC). The birds were found on 29 Aug by Fritz Brock, a visitor from Allentown, Pennsylvania, who was playing golf and heard the birds. Nearby home owner William Smith recalled hearing the doves since the time of Larry Stone's article on the White-winged Doves in late April, and his golfing partners often mentioned hearing owls when they were hearing the doves (THK). Although the first record for Iowa, this species is showing up in many northern states and its population is rapidly expanding. On 15 October, Marshalltown birders found a dead bird along the road and gave it to the Marshall County Conservation Board.
- White-winged Dove:** 1 came to a feeder at Fort Dodge from 21 to 24 Sep and was photographed (letter from Diana J. Hultine). This is the third Iowa record for this species, all in 1997.
- Mourning Dove:** 2 fledged from a nest in Ames on 17 Sep (JJD).
- Black-billed Cuckoo:** Last: 28 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK). Only 3 others were reported.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Last: 29 Sep at L. Ahquabi (AB). High count: 12 on 28 Aug in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and on 31 Aug at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. (LAS).
- Eastern Screech-Owl:** A light-phase bird, possibly *Otus asio maxwelliae*, was at Sioux Center in early Nov (JV). A red-phase bird found dead at the Orleans Fish Hatchery in Dickinson County on 26 Nov had been banded on 3 Mar 1997 0.75 miles to the west (ETH).
- Long-eared Owl:** All: 1 on 3 Nov at Mason City (CJF).
- Short-eared Owl:** First: 22 Oct in Emmet Co. (DHe). Three other reports were from Polk and Dickinson counties.
- Common Nighthawk:** Last: 2 on 8 Oct in Fairfield (DCP). High counts: 200 on 22 Aug at Algona (MCK), 100 on 4 Sep in West Des Moines (HZ), and 150 on 6 Sep at Spencer (LAS).
- Whip-poor-will:** 1 was at Waubonsie S.P. on 5 Aug (MPr).
- Chimney Swift:** Last: 4 on 18 Oct at Des Moines (PJW). High count: 3,200 on 8 Sep at Fairfield with the last 2 there on 17 Oct (DCP).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Last: 2 on 18 Oct at West Okoboji (JJ).
- Belted Kingfisher:** 18 were at Waubonsie W.A. on 4 Aug (SJD).
- Pileated Woodpecker:** Birds were reported from Appanoose, Marshall, and Tama counties.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** First: 10 Aug at Dunbar Sl. (ETH). Last: 24 Sep in Jones Co. (THK). There were 15 other reports of 1 to 5 birds.
- Eastern Wood-Pewee:** An adult was feeding 2 young on 13 Sep in Sac Co. (PE). Last: 28 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** All: 17 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE), 23 Aug at Big M. (MPr), and 26 Aug at Coralville Res. (THK).
- Willow Flycatcher:** All: 1 on 11 Aug at Oak Grove P. in Sioux Co. (JV) and 1 heard on 14 Sep in Marion Co. (RLC).
- Western Kingbird:** All: 5 Aug in southwestern Fremont Co. (MPr).
- Eastern Kingbird:** Last: 24 Sep at Waubonsie W.A. (BKP/LJP). High count: 25 on 30 Aug in Dickinson Co. (ETH).
- Purple Martin:** Last and high count: 34 on 16 Aug at West Okoboji (JJ).
- Tree Swallow:** Last: 2 on 29 Oct at Pleasant Creek L. (JLF, THK). High count: 5,000 on 7 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).
- Cliff Swallow:** High count: 5,000 on 7 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).
- American Crow:** At the Ames roost, numbers increased from 493 on 31 Aug to 3,300 on 22 Nov (JJD).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** First: 8 Aug at Ida Grove (PE). There were reports from 5 other locations in August and by September this species was widespread in the state.
- Carolina Wren:** Reports were from 2 locations each in Des Moines and Iowa City and from Effigy Mounds N.M. with comments about their having been gone for months to several years.
- House Wren:** Last: 18 Oct at Coralville Res. (CE), Ringgold W.A. (PHA/RIA), and Fairfield (DCP).
- Winter Wren:** First: 24 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Sedge Wren: Last: 9 Oct at Coralville Res. (CE). Birds were singing on 11 Aug in Sioux Co. (JV) and 16 Aug at Hayden Prairie (CRN).

Marsh Wren: Last: 8 Nov in Wayne Co. (AB)[3rd latest except for winter records]. High count: 37 on 21 Sep at Snake Creek M. (AB).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: First: 27 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (Kevin Healy fide MPr).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First: 10 Sep at Sioux Center (JV).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: All: 2 Aug at L. Macbride (BFH) and 6 Sep at Sioux Center (JV).

Townsend's Solitaire: All: 1 on 30 Nov at Shell Rock Greenbelt in Cerro Gordo Co. (CRN).

Veery: 2 reported.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: None reported.

Swainson's Thrush: 4 reported.

Hermit Thrush: First and last: Iowa City yard on 7 Oct and 15 Nov (THK).

Wood Thrush: All: 6 Aug at Waubonsie S.P. (MPr) and 1 young on 31 Aug at Springbrook S.P. (MPr).

American Robin: High count: 2,000 on 26 Oct at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Varied Thrush: None reported.

Gray Catbird: Last: 19 to 30 Nov at suet feeder near Calmar (Susan Anderson fide DeC). High count: 40 on 2 Aug at L. Macbride (BFH).

Northern Mockingbird: Most unusual was 1 on 7 Nov at Oak Grove P., where there is only 1 report since 1960. Other birds west of Riverton in Fremont Co. on 5 Aug (SJD) and at Ledges S.P. on 29 Nov (David Edwards fide JJD) were also at unusual locations for fall.

Brown Thrasher: Last: 28 Oct at Mason City (RGo).

American Pipit: First: 3 on 9 Sep at Runnells W.A. (AB). Last: 1 on 28 Nov at Greenfield L. in Adair Co. (JSi). High count: 100 on 2 Nov in Cerro Gordo Co. (CRN). There were 10 other reports of 1 to 12 birds.

Bohemian Waxwing: All: 1 on 8 Nov in northeastern Allamakee Co. (RIA) and 1 on 19 Nov in Dickinson Co. (ETH).

Northern Shrike: All: 23 Nov at Colo (HZ), 26 Nov at Hawarden (JV), and 30 Nov in Allamakee Co. (CE).

Loggerhead Shrike: Birds were reported from 7 Aug to 15 Nov from 7 locations.

Bell's Vireo: All: 1 on 7 Aug at Riverton A. (MPr).

Blue-headed (Solitary) Vireo: First: 31 Aug at Wanata S.P. (LAS). Last: 21 Oct at L. Ahquabi (AB).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Last: 27 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (Kevin Healy fide MPr).

Warbling Vireo: Last: 26 Sep at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK)[ties 2nd latest]. Other relatively late birds were 1 heard at Diamond L. on 15 Sep (MPr) and 1 at L. Ahquabi on 23 Sep (AB).

Philadelphia Vireo: First: 22 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 3 Oct at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP).

Red-eyed Vireo: Last: 22 Oct near Spirit Lake (ETH)[3rd latest].

Blue-winged Warbler: Last: 2 on 7 Sep at Moorehead P., where a Brewster's hybrid was seen on 6 Sep (PE). There were 3 others reported.

Golden-winged Warbler: First: 24 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 27 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr)[ties 2nd latest]. There were 7 other reports of 1 to 3 birds.

Tennessee Warbler: First: 16 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 8 Oct at L. Ahquabi (AB).

Orange-crowned Warbler: First: 28 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 19 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr) and Appanoose Co. (RLC). High count: 12 on 28 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

Nashville Warbler: First: 31 Aug in Dallas Co. (MPr). Last: 2 Nov at Cedar Rapids (DLD).

Northern Parula: Last: 4 Oct at Moorehead P. (PE).

Yellow Warbler: Last: 6 Sep in Dallas Co. (MPr) and Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: First: 22 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 27 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

Magnolia Warbler: First: 23 Aug at Big M. (MPr). Last: 28 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr) and Moorehead P. (PE).

Cape May Warbler: All: 7 Sep at Martin's Access in Cherokee Co. (PE) and 28 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: All: 15 Sep at Macbride N.R.A. (CE) and 27 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: First: 13 Sep at South Twin L. in Calhoun Co. (PE). Last: 30 Nov at L. Ahquabi (JSi). High count: 175 on 19 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Black-throated Green Warbler: First: 31 Aug at Springbrook S.P. (MPr). Last: 3 Oct at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP).

Blackburnian Warbler: First: 23 Aug at Big M. (MPr). Last: 24 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Yellowthroated Warbler: All: 2 Aug at L. Macbride (BFH) and 11 Sep at Red Rock Res. (AB).

Pine Warbler: All: 6 Sep at Martin's Access in Cherokee Co. (PE) and 2 on 7 Sep at Spencer (LAS).

Palm Warbler: First: 3 Sep at Decorah (DeC). Last: 17 Nov at Shenandoah (JMB/MT)[ties record latest]. Another late bird on 24 Oct was at Medicine Creek W.A. in Wayne Co. (AB)[3rd latest].

Bay-breasted Warbler: First: 21 Aug at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). Last: 27 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 11 on 4 Sep at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK).

Blackpoll Warbler: All: 1 on 7 Sep and 2 on 17 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE) and 1 on 29 Sep at Muskrat Sl. (CE)

Cerulean Warbler: All: 1 on 10 Aug at Ledges S.P. (SJD).

Black-and-white Warbler: First: 21 Aug at Algona (MCK). Last: 27 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

American Redstart: High count and last: 26 on 28 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Ovenbird: Last: 4 Oct at Amana Woods (CE)[3rd latest]. Another was at Grammer Grove W.A. on 27 Sep (MPr).

Northern Waterthrush: First: 13 Aug at Jemerson Sl. (LAS). Last: 6 Sep in Dallas Co. (MPr).

Kentucky Warbler: All: 28 Aug in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Connecticut Warbler: All: 31 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE), 6 Sep at Saylorville Res. (MPr-details), and 8 and 24 Sep at Bacon Creek in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Mourning Warbler: First: 13 Aug at Jemerson Sl. (LAS). Last: 21 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

MacGillivray's Warbler: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Common Yellowthroat: Last: 9 Oct at Diamond L. (MPr).

Wilson's Warbler: First: 6 Aug at Spirit L. (SJD-details)[record earliest]. Last: 28 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). High count: 32 on 31 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE).

Canada Warbler: First: 21 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 10 Sep in Jasper Co. (MPr).

Scarlet Tanager: Last: 2 on 28 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Blue Grosbeak: Many were seen in August all over Sioux Co. (JV). In Fremont Co., 1 was near Bartlett on 13 Aug (SJD).

Indigo Bunting: Last: 30 Nov in Davis Co. (PHA/RIA-details)[record latest].

Dickcissel: Last: 4 on 14 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Spotted Towhee: All: 1 Oct at Saylorville Res. (AB), 5 Oct near Ledges S.P. (Mark Widrechner fide JJD), 11 Oct at West Okoboji (LAS), 6 Nov at Cone M. (JLF), and 9 Nov at Clive (JC).

American Tree Sparrow: First: 22 Oct at Mason City (RGo).

Chipping Sparrow: High count: 45 in Appanoose Co. on 27 Sep (RLC).

Field Sparrow: Last: 2 on 28 Nov at Heron Bend (CE).

Vesper Sparrow: Last: 17 Oct in Sioux Co. (JV). High count: 100 migrating with Horned Larks on 12 Sep in Sioux Co. (JV).

Lark Sparrow: Last: 2 on 14 Sep in Marion Co. (RLC)[2nd latest].

Savannah Sparrow: Last: 9 on 6 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Last: 14 Sep in Marion Co. (RLC).

Le Conte's Sparrow: First: 13 Sep at Welch L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS). Last: 11 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AB). High counts: 18 on 4 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 15 on 18 Oct at McBreen M. in Dickinson Co. (LAS).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: First: 11 on 14 Sep at 3 locations in Kossuth Co. (MCK)[ties 3rd earliest]. Last: 18 Oct at McBreen M. in Dickinson Co. (LAS). Other reports were from Coralville Res., Snake Creek M., and Bjorkboda M.

Fox Sparrow: First: 1 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Lincoln's Sparrow: First: 13 Sep at Saylorville Res. (MPr). Last: 12 Nov at L. Meyer in Winneshiek Co. (DeC).

White-throated Sparrow: First: 11 Sep at Mason City (RGo).

Harris's Sparrow: First: 30 Sep at L. Ahquabi (AB). High count: 18 on 30 Oct at Red Rock Res. (AB).

Dark-eyed Junco: First: 19 Sep at Steamboat Rock (MPr).

- Lapland Longspur:** First: 45 on 26 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 1,500 on 2 Nov in Kossuth Co. (MCK).
- Snow Bunting:** First: 2 on 2 Nov in Dickinson Co. (LAS). The only other report was 1 on 15 Nov in Tama Co. (MPr).
- Bobolink:** Last: 2 on 19 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC)[2nd latest]. There were 2 at Harrier M. on 17 Sep (JJD).
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 2 were at Rathbun Res. on 16 Aug (TNJ).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** 12 including 4 dark-eyed females were at Christopherson Sl. on 26 Oct (LAS) and a male and female were in Cerro Gordo Co. on 2 Nov (CRN-details).
- Great-tailed Grackle:** Last and high counts: on 4 Sep, 16 including immatures at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. (ETh) and 30 at Waubonsie W.A. (BKP/LJP). Other county locations were of 2 on 6 Aug east of Glidden in Carroll Co. (SJD) and 8 on 18 Aug in feedlots south of Granger in Dallas Co. (MPr).
- Common Grackle:** High count: 2,500 on 19 Oct in Linn Co. (DLD).
- Orchard Oriole:** All: 2 on 18 Aug at Saylorville Res. (MPr) and 1 on 30 Aug at Liscomb (MPr).
- Baltimore Oriole:** Last 12 Oct at Sioux Center (JV).
- Pine Grosbeak:** All: 1 at Holstein in Ida Co. on 5 Nov (*CLR).
- Purple Finch:** First: 2 Sep near Spirit Lake (ETh). There were September reports from 4 other locations as well as scattered reports in October and November.
- House Finch:** Birds with eye disease were reported in Sioux Center (JV).
- Red Crossbill:** All: 4 on 9 Oct at Burlington (JLV).
- White-winged Crossbill:** First: 1 on 7 Nov at Algona in Kossuth Co. (MCK). High count: 120 on 16 Nov in Lake Park in Dickinson Co. (LAS). There were 16 reports from Allamakee, Clay, Dickinson, Kossuth, and O'Brien counties, all of which are in the northern 2 rows of counties.
- Common Redpoll:** First: 11 Nov at West Des Moines (PHA/RIA). Other reports were from Dallas, Dickinson, Hardin, Lyon, and Union counties.
- Pine Siskin:** First: 13 Sep at Mason City (CJF). High count: 100 on 26 Nov at Fairmont Cemetery in Davenport (JLF, THK). Numbers were greatly increased from last year, but most did not show up until late October.
- Evening Grosbeak:** All: 1 imm. male on 13 Sep at Iowa City (Julie Hayek-details)[3rd earliest], 2 on 30 Oct near Boone (Karl Jungbluth fide JJD), and 3 Nov at Sioux Center (JV).

COMMENT

The database comprised 30 reports and 35 documentations (of 19 species). I made 1,183 entries into the database, which did not include 17 added from 3 reports received after the database had been printed. All reports were received by 6 December except for 3 that were received on the 10th. The amount of data is down about 20 percent from last year.

Determining which records to include in the report is always agonizing for me. Of first concern are reports of Accidental and Casual species. All such reports are ignored if they are not documented. I mention the details (date, place, observer) only if I think there is no or minimal possibility that the Records Committee will not accept the record; otherwise, I say, "A report will be referred to the Records Committee." Some of these reports are accepted and published in the report of the committee. It should always be emphasized that non-accepted reports do not mean that the identification was incorrect.

Of second concern are reports of rare and difficult-to-identify species that are accompanied by minimal or no details, and I cannot always tell how well they were seen. My concern is accentuated if the date is unusual. Examples from this fall's data were of the following species: Horned Grebe (early), Little Blue Heron (late), Prairie Falcon (often hard to see well), King Rail (can be confused with Virginia), Thayer's Gull (adults may be more difficult than immatures), Swainson's Thrush (late), Warbling Vireo (late, how identified), Brewster's Warbler (easy but no detail), Pine

Warbler (how reliable is a negative field mark--unstreaked back), Connecticut Warbler (very difficult to be sure on fall birds), Clay-colored Sparrow (hard to distinguish from Chipping in fall), Lark Sparrow (easy, but late and no details), Bobolink (late, should be in drab plumage), and Brewer's Blackbird (a species that presents a lot of difficulty for me--hard to see well, confusing plumages). These are my personal reactions; others might have different concerns. In this as well as previous reports, I have made my best judgment. Birds left out are most likely correct, just not beyond some doubt in my mind. The list above is small compared to the many rare birds for which good details were given. I sometimes include the word "details" after an observers initials, but only if I think this might be of particular importance to include in the literature.

Of third concern is what data are important enough to include in the report for the more common regular species. There is no way we can know everything about the birds present in the state during a given season. We can only know what is observed, and these data fall into several categories: active observers who report lots of sightings including early and late dates, active observers who report only the most interesting findings, less active observers who report interesting findings, and active observers who do not report. For migrants that are frequently reported, I have found that the easiest way to present the data and to describe the migration is to give first and last dates and high count(s) and sometimes additional sightings. These data are often dull but may be useful to: (1) those readers who are only moderately familiar with Iowa birds, (2) the editors and readers of *Field Notes* who may compare the pattern in Iowa with that in other states, and (3) future researchers of migration patterns in Iowa. The problem for me arises when the amount of data is so small that the pattern may not be well represented. The more common the species, the more likely the data are minimal, e.g., for many of the common warblers. When I do not mention high count or first or last date, it is likely that the data submitted are minimal and not unusual. Comments, suggestions, and corrections are welcome.

CONTRIBUTORS * = documentation only

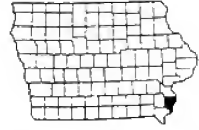
Pam H. Allen (PHA), West Des Moines; Reid I. Allen (RIA), West Des Moines; Jean M. Braley (JMB), Shenandoah; Aaron Brees (AB), Corydon; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; *Robert I. Cecil (RIC), Des Moines; Jane R. Clark (JRC), Clive; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Fort Collins, CO; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Bery Engebretsen (BE), Des Moines; Peter Ernzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Rita Goranson (RGo), Mason City; *Julie B. Hayek (JBH), Iowa City; Dennis Henrickson (DHe), Estherville; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City, NE; Thomas N. Johnson (TNJ), Mystic; Jack Jones (JJ), Sioux City; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Curt R. Nelson (CRN), Mason City; Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; Diane C. Porter (DCP), Fairfield; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Ed Thelen (ETH), Spirit Lake; Dennis Thompson (DT), Johnston; Marie Tiemann (MT), Shenandoah; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Phil J. Walsh (PJW), Des Moines; Jan L. Walter (JLW), Mason City; and Hank Zaletel (HZ), Nevada.

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EURASIAN TREE SPARROW NEST IN DES MOINES COUNTY

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Since about 1989, Eurasian Tree Sparrows (*Passer montanus*) have become established north of Burlington in Des Moines County. Their presence and persistence has been documented annually on Burlington's Christmas Bird Count since the 1989-90 winter (Jackson et al. 1997, Kent and Dinsmore 1996). The regular increase in numbers on Christmas Bird Counts--15 in 1989 (Silcock 1990:46), 11 in 1990 (Silcock 1991:51), 12 in 1991 (Silcock 1992:49), 17 in 1992 (Silcock 1993:43), 60 in 1993 (Silcock 1994:41), 57 in 1994 (Silcock 1995:40), 212 in 1995 (Silcock 1996:49), and 124 in 1996 (Dinsmore 1996:53) -- indicates that this species has maintained and expanded its population, and that breeding is obviously occurring, though not specifically documented. The first published evidence of breeding was observation of an "adult and 2 young . . . at the usual site n of Burlington on 17 Jun [1993]" (D. Randall Pinkston, in Dinsmore 1993).



On 28 June 1997, we found and banded a brood of five young Eurasian Tree Sparrows near Burlington at the usual site in Tama Township. The sparrows had nested in a bluebird nest box mounted 1.6 m above ground on the chain link fence surrounding the Burlington Waterworks Plant (Highway 99 [= Des Moines Avenue] and Tama Road) in Des Moines County (Fig. 1). Two adults were seen perched near the nest box, which prompted our closer investigation. Five young were found in the nest; they were well-feathered, an estimated 10-12 days old, and within a few days of leaving the nest. The young were banded, photographed, weighed (19.5, 19.5, 19.2, ??, 17 grams) and returned to the nest (Fig. 2).

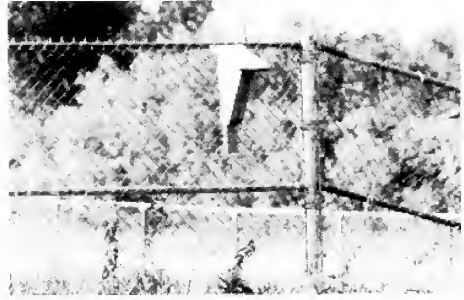


Fig. 1. Nest box used by Eurasian Tree Sparrow near Burlington. Photo by G. C. Lowther.



Fig. 2. Young Eurasian Tree Sparrow, about 12 days old. Photo by G.C. Lowther.

Eurasian Tree Sparrows nest more often in holes in trees, rather than in or on buildings, but readily accept nest boxes (Anderson 1978, Summers-Smith 1995). Where they occur with House Sparrows (*P. domesticus*), Eurasian Tree Sparrows may be displaced unless safe nest sites are available. In Missouri, nest boxes with an entrance diameter of 29 mm were used by Eurasian Tree Sparrows whereas nest boxes with larger diameters were used by House Sparrows (Anderson 1978). The nest box that was used here, though having a large entrance, seemed distant enough from farmsteads to preclude House Sparrows (PEL). Assuming an incubation period of 12 days and nestling period of 14 days (Anderson 1978), this nesting attempt probably began about 1 June. In comparison with Missouri studies (Anderson 1978), this nesting may well have been a second brood.

Our visits to Burlington are infrequent, but checking the Tama Road-levee area is a usual activity, often successful in seeing Eurasian Tree Sparrows. One had been seen near this same box during a visit earlier this year (6 April 1997). Tama Road parallels the levee and Mississippi River north of Burlington. This area consists of bottomland woodland, levee, and numerous river cabins (generally east of the road) and row crops (to west). Numerous bluebird boxes have been placed throughout this flood plain east of Highway 99. Most likely, nest sites selected by Eurasian Tree Sparrows have been more inconspicuous than the nest we found. This nest serves as another indication of an established and growing population in southeastern Iowa.

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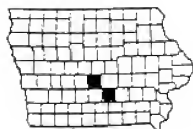
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Field Museum, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605-2496 (PEL); and 18346 Page Court, Homewood, IL. 60430-3320

LAUGHING GULLS IN CENTRAL IOWA

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

During 1996, I saw three Laughing Gulls in central Iowa. Here, I provide details of each sighting and comment on their status in Iowa.



On 10 May 1996, I observed an adult Laughing Gull at Saylorville Reservoir in Polk County. The bird was resting on Sandpiper Beach in the company of Ring-billed Gulls and Caspian Terns. I watched and photographed the bird from 10:24 to 10:40 a.m. and noted the following. The bird was slightly smaller than a Ring-billed Gull and much slimmer. The bird was in alternate plumage with a black hood, faint white eye crescents, and blood-red bill. The mantle and upperwings were dark gray except for black primaries. The underparts and tail were white. The legs were black. In flight, I noted that the undersides of the outer primaries were black and there was no white bar on the upperwing separating the black primaries from the gray upperwing.

On 17 August 1996, Jim Sinclair, Ray Cummins, and I were birding Runnells Wildlife Area in Marion County. We were walking along the main dike when I saw a smaller gull flying with Ring-billed Gulls. I recognized the bird immediately as a juvenile Laughing Gull. We studied the bird at close range intermittently from 9:00 to 10:35 a.m. The bird was slightly smaller and slimmer-winged than a Ring-billed Gull. The bird was almost entirely brown, except for a paler face, throat, and belly, and black primaries. The black bill was rather long and slightly drooped. The eye was dark with prominent white eye crescents, especially around the posterior end of the eye. The mantle and scapulars were edged with pale buff giving the bird a somewhat scaly appearance. In flight, there was a broad, black terminal tail band. The legs appeared black, and the bird seemed long-legged compared to a Ring-billed Gull. I aged the bird as a juvenile because of the extensive brown color on the body and wings.

Finally, on 5 September 1996, I saw a juvenile Laughing Gull near the north end of the Highway 14 bridge at Red Rock Reservoir in Marion County. This bird's description matched that of the juvenile seen earlier at Runnells Wildlife Area. I watched the bird from 12:45 to 1:10 p.m. and photographed it. It is possible this was the same bird seen on 17 August.

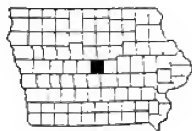
None of these birds were relocated after the initial sighting. Records of Laughing Gulls in Iowa continue to increase as observers become more aware of the possibility of finding them. There are a few records from spring (April-May), but most are from fall (July-October) with a peak from early August to mid-September.

612 1/2 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, CO 80521

WESTERN Tanager IN STORY COUNTY

KEVIN HEALY

On the afternoon of 8 May 1997 my neighbor, M. J. Hatfield, called to alert me to the presence of a Western Tanager near my home. Shortly after 4:00 p.m. an adult male Western Tanager in breeding plumage visited one of our feeders, sampling oranges slices set out to attract Baltimore Orioles. I observed



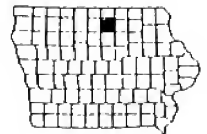
the bird intermittently over the next two hours, feeding alone or near Baltimore Orioles and American Goldfinches. I saw a yellow bird with a red head and black wings, mantle and tail. In size it was between that of a Baltimore Oriole and an American Goldfinch, closer to that of the goldfinch. The bird was bright red on the face, throat, and crown; the red was less bright on the nape. The eye was black with a fine yellow eye ring. The wings were black with two bars; the upper bar broader and yellow, the lower bar thinner and a more pale yellow (almost white). The bird was frequently observed in our neighborhood over the next six days, last seen the morning of 13 May. It fed on oranges garnished with marmalade at the home of Lucy Rimler. Numerous birders from as throughout the state enjoyed her hospitality as well. This is the first recorded observation of a Western Tanager in Story County and about the twelfth for Iowa.

2427 Waterford Drive, Ames IA 50010

FERRUGINOUS HAWK IN CERRO GORDO COUNTY

CAROLYN J. FISCHER

On 12 February 1997 at 2:30 p.m. I was driving south along Dogwood Avenue in southwestern Cerro Gordo County. Tim Phalen, Jan Walter, and I were looking for a Snowy Owl that had been recently sighted in that section of the county. The terrain is rolling hills covered with open farm fields.



From the left side of the car, a large buteo flew rather low and parallel to me car. The wings were long, straight edged, and appeared pointed. The back was very dark, the tail was white at the base, and was not fanned out. The underside was very white and patagial marks were absent from the leading edge of the wings. The bird flew with strong wing beats.

The bird landed in a field on a 5-foot fence post approximately 45 yards from us. Using my window mount spotting scope and having a side view of the bird, I made the following observations:

Large head and bill. Head was light but not all white. Throat was white, without a malar stripe. Dark line through the eye, with a light area above and below the eye. Crown was brown with some streaking. Breast very white, no belly band, white leg feathers, unable to see the feet. Had some brown-black spots on the flanks. Back dark brown and the wing tips were just short of the tail tip. With bird perched, the tail looked dark except a slight rufous wash at the tip.

We watched, using a 30x spotting scope, for 30 minutes in good sunny viewing conditions. Referring to Clark and Wheeler (1987), I was able to eliminate light-morph Red-tailed Hawk by lack of a prominent eye line, white cheek, and absence of malar stripe. We concluded that we were watching an immature Ferruginous Hawk. After returning home I consulted Dunne et al. (1988) for further confirmation. The Iowa Bird Line was notified of the sighting. The hawk was seen in the area by others for the next several days.

There had been only five accepted records of Ferruginous Hawk in Iowa. This is the first accepted record of the Ferruginous Hawk in Cerro Gordo County (Kent and Dinsmore, 1996).

LITERATURE CITED

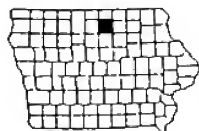
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48 Lakeview Court, Mason City, IA 50401

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON IMMATURE FERRUGINOUS HAWK IN CERRO GORDO COUNTY

THOMAS H. KENT

This bird was initially reported to the Birdline by Lowell Washburn and later seen by many other observers. Documentations were available from 14 February by Tom Kent and from 16 February by Jim Fuller, Jim Dinsmore, and Steve Dinsmore. A photograph was taken on 15 February by Reid Allen. On the 14th and 16th the bird was seen at close range roosting in confers at a farmstead at 140th Street and Dogwood Avenue. It was also seen flying.



Additional observations noted by these observers on the sitting bird included a large yellow cere; a large, heavy, thick bill with long hook; a prominent yellow gape extending to below the eye; pale gray eye; blue-gray bill; yellow feet; long, white streak on upper back with some rufous feather edgings on scapulars; dark spots on the sides of the breast beneath the wing; and small black dots on white feathered legs. In flight, observations included a big-chested, long-winged profile with pointed wing tips; white under wing except for dark comma at wrist; triangular white patches at the bases of the primaries on the upper wing; distal tail grayish; and white leg feathers.

Immature Ferruginous Hawks are difficult to identify, requiring good views of several subtle field marks. The combination of features reported by five birders aided in the identification of this bird—no one observer was able to detect all the field marks because of the position or behavior of the bird. Field marks that were not reported include the U-shaped row of dots on the upper tail coverts and dihedral wing pattern in flight. Single observers noted slight rufous wash to the tip of the tail and slight rufous in the scapulars.



Fig. 1. Immature Ferruginous Hawk, Cerro Gordo County, 15 February 1997. Photo by Reid I. Allen.

Some of the more specific features of Ferruginous Hawk (Clark and Wheeler 1987, Dunne et al. 1988, Wheeler and Clark 1995) include large head and gape; white cheek, dark eye-line, and absence of malar stripe; white underwing without patagial mark; feathered legs (shared with Rough-legged Hawk); and white patch in base of primaries (shared with juvenile Rough-legged Hawk). U-shaped dots on the upper tail

coverts are typical of juvenile light-morph Ferruginous Hawk. A close view or view from a favorable angle is needed to confirm many of these field marks. The large size and long narrow wings typical of Ferruginous Hawk are useful to the experienced observer.

LITERATURE CITED

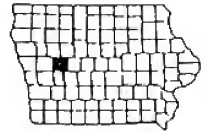
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211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246

BRANT IN CARROLL COUNTY

RUSS BEHRENS

On 29 November 1996, while viewing a large flock of Canada Geese at Swan Lake State Park in Carroll County, I noticed one bird perched on the ice that was quite different from the 1,500-2,000 Canada Geese that were present. Those geese were mostly intermediate-sized Canada Geese, smaller than the "Giant" Canada Geese that typically nest in Iowa. This bird was somewhat smaller than the other geese, about the size of the much smaller "Hutchins" subspecies of Canada Goose that migrates through Iowa. The bird was obviously some type of waterfowl but stayed away from the rest of the waterfowl that were present. The most obvious difference was its coloration. Its head, neck, and chest were all very dark, almost black, in color. There was a white ring around the neck, noticeable but not so pronounced as in a Canada Goose. The sides of the body were also dark colored but had some white bands or stripes on them. The rear of the body was pure white. Besides being smaller than the Canada Geese that were present, the bird's bill was shorter and blunter and the neck was also shorter in proportion to its body. In shape, it looked very much like a "Hutchins" Goose. Based on the bird's coloration, size, and shape, I identified it as a Brant, most likely of the western *nigricans* subspecies. Several other people who were with me also saw the bird and agreed that it was different from the Canada Geese. I talked to people at the park, and they told me that it was not a domestic bird that had been released at the park. There are four other reports of Brant from Iowa, all of them reported in fall (Kent and Dinsmore, *Birds in Iowa*, 1996).



907 East 10th Street, Spencer, IA 51301

WHITE-WINGED DOVE AT LE GRAND IN MARSHALL COUNTY

MARK PROESCHOLDT

On 28 April 1997, I was at the high school parking lot in Le Grand. As I got out of my van, I heard the loud, distinctive call of a White-winged Dove. It was the loud "who cooks for you" call that I have heard and enjoyed on a number of trips to southeastern Arizona. I walked to the yard next to the parking lot and saw a White-winged Dove fly from one tree to another. In my initial look at it, it looked much like a Mourning Dove with bright white wing patches.

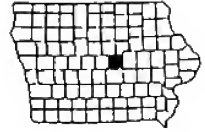


Fig 1. White-winged Dove at Le Grand, Marshall County, 28 April, 1997. Photo by Thomas H. Kent.



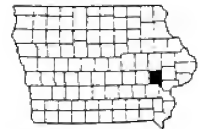
On 1 May 1997, I saw it perched on wires by a church near the school and saw the white slash on its wings. On 10 May I heard it calling and saw it flying around some. At that time, I first saw the white in its tail and the squared-off end of the tail. Many people saw this bird, and it stayed at least through 17 May. This is the second state record of a White-winged Dove following the first sighting on a White-winged Dove by Nelson Hoskins of Ottumwa on 8-14 April 1997 at his feeder during a snow storm.

Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148

IMMATURE WHITE IBIS AT CORALVILLE RESERVOIR

THOMAS H. KENT

An immature White Ibis was found at Half-moon Lake on Greencastle Avenue in the Hawkeye Wildlife Area of the Coralville Reservoir in Johnson County on the afternoon of 5 September 1995 by James Huntington. James immediately notified many local birders who saw the bird that evening, and the word was spread so that many birders were able to see the ibis on their way to or from the I.O.U. meeting in Davenport the next weekend.



The bird was obviously an ibis with long legs and neck, and thick, down-turned bill. The upper parts were brown and the belly, under rump, and upper thighs white. The gray of the belly extended up around the leading edge of the wing. On the left side of the folded wing (but not on the right) there was a conspicuous white spot. The head, neck, and upper breast were streaked brown. The soft brown of the face was

lighter below and behind the eye. The thin ring of skin around the eye and in front of the eye was pink-orange. The pupil was dark. The bill was dark gray-brown on the inner half and yellow-orange on the outer half. The legs were dark gray. In flight, the distal one-third of the tail was brown and proximal tail and rump white, with a triangular wedge of white up the back. The upper wing was uniform brown, but the underwing coverts were white with brown leading edge. The bird was heard to make a grunting sound.

During the first evening and the next morning the bird paid little attention to the birders as it picked up small dead fish on the exposed mud flats on the edge of the old oxbow. It walked directly in front of the viewers as close as 10 yards away. When it flew, it generally went to the west where several attempts to locate it were unsuccessful. For the remainder of its sojourn, it often appeared unexpectedly and frequented the far side of the oxbow. I saw the bird on 10 of the 12 days it was present from 5 to 16 September.

White Ibis is a regular vagrant north of its normal range on the Gulf Coast and southern East Coast. Most vagrants are found from May to September. A few have wandered north as far as Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota. This is the first record for Iowa.



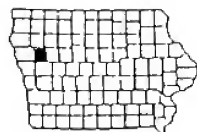
Fig. 1. Immature White Ibis, 6 September 1995, Coralville Reservoir. T. H. Kent.

21 I Richards St., Iowa City 52246

VERMILION FLYCATCHER IN IDA COUNTY

CURTIS L. RECTOR

I arrived home on 24 May 1997 at 2 p.m. My parents and nephew had seen a bird in our backyard that they thought at first was a Northern Cardinal. Being an avid birdwatcher, I checked it out myself. The first sighting I had was of a red bird on the grass near the bittersweet hedge. But I could see right away that it was not a cardinal as it lacked a crest, and it had dark feathers. One of the first things I noticed was that it was much tamer than most birds are. We were standing about 50 feet from the bird, which did not seem to mind our presence and continued on with its activity. The bird's plumage was red, except for its wings and tail, which looked brown. At this point, I thought it could be a Scarlet Tanager. I got my binoculars and could see brown plumage down its back from the bird's head to its tail. As I watched it, the bird was taking off from the grass, flying into the air to snatch an insect, and then landing on a nearby fence. From this, I could tell it had to be a species of flycatcher. It continued this activity, and also went from fence to brushpile, almost stopping in mid-air to catch another insect. I watched for about 5-10 minutes until it flew west toward our farm grove and out of sight. I had taken



mental notes of this bird during the time I watched it and returned to the house for a bird book to confirm its identify. I looked in my copy of Birds of North America and positively identified this bird as a male Vermilion Flycatcher. I knew it had to be a rare sighting in Iowa but I didn't know how rare until I read that this species is common in the Southwest. I went back outside to see if I could see if I could find it again but I could not locate it. I then called the Iowa Birdline to report it, being a rare sighting in the state.

This is only the fourth record of this southwestern species in Iowa. Two of the other reports were also in May and the third was in October. Ironically, I also saw a Vermilion Flycatcher at Rice Lake in Worth County on 13 May 1988 (Anderson *Iowa Bird Life* 59:63, 1989), the second sighting in the state.

1531 Harvest Ave., Holstein, IA 51025-8117

I.O.U. BUSINESS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marshalltown, 7 March 1998, 10:58 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Mark Proescholdt, presiding

Present: Dan Dorrance, Maridel Jackson, Ann Johnson, Curt Nelson, Mark Proescholdt, Jim Scheib, Carol Thompson. Also attending: Jim Dinsmore and Hank Zaletel.

Reports

Future meetings: Plans are coming along well for the 75th anniversary meeting in Ames this spring. The Fall 1998 meeting will probably be held at Camp Sunnyside near Des Moines. It was moved (Dorrance, seconded by Jackson) to accept the Rathbun Bird Club's invitation to host the Spring 1999 meeting in the Centerville area in May 1999, pending approval by the membership. Motion passed. Sites for future I.O.U. meetings were discussed briefly.

Meeting Funds: The board reaffirmed the existing policy of splitting any extra money from I.O.U. meetings on a 50:50 basis between the I.O.U. and the local host. Any extra money for the I.O.U. will go into the I.O.U. meeting fund.

Dues: The board approved the current dues structure except for life memberships. It was moved (Thompson, seconded by Johnson) that, effective in 1999, Life Memberships be structured to 25 years of the regular membership rate. Motion passed.

Teacher Activity Books: Zaletel discussed the book and how it was being marketed. It was moved (Johnson, seconded by Thompson) to sell I.O.U. materials such as booklets and checklists to third parties for resale for cost plus 30%. Motion passed.

Migratory Bird Book: Zaletel reported that all of the writing for this book is complete and the book should be done by June 1998.

T-shirts and Hats: Dinsmore reported on plans to have I.O.U. t-shirts available at the spring meeting. Scheib reported that I.O.U. hats will also be ready then.

Treasurer's Position: The board discussed the possibility of splitting up the duties of the Treasurer to help alleviate the large amount of time needed to carry out the Treasurers duties. It was moved (Thompson, seconded by Johnson) that "The Board recommends the establishment of an administrative position to be called the Registrar to report to the Board. The major duties of the the Registrar shall be upkeep of membership files, preparing and distributing renewal notices, maintaining the membership directory, distributing lists and mailing labels, and undertaking correspondence as necessary." Motion passed. The possibility of offering an honorarium for certain I.O.U. positions was also discussed but no action was taken.

Funding Requests: Acting on the directive of the membership at the fall 1997 business meeting, the board discussed what policy should be established for funding requests to the I.O.U. from outside sources. It was moved (Jackson, seconded by Scheib) that all proposals shall be directed to the Board. Proposals for \$500 or less can be acted upon by the Board. Proposals for greater than that amount shall be discussed by the board and presented to the membership for approval. All funding requests are limited to amounts budgeted for each fiscal year. Motion passed.

Officers and Computers: Software needs of the Treasurer and the proposed Registrar position were discussed. Some board members thought that the President should have access to e-mail in the future for better communications.

Bird Feeder Survey: David Horn and Steve Fairbairn at Iowa State University are analyzing data from previous surveys. This should be done by fall 1998 and will prepare an article for *Iowa Bird Life*.

Nominating Committee: The committee is working on a slate of officers for the spring 1998 election.

Records Committee: The Board approved the appointment of Bob Cecil to this committee.

Membership Committee: New members for the committee were discussed. The committee has two openings.

Field Trips: Field trips, a Field Trip Committee, and interest in field trips were discussed briefly.

Treasurers Report: Jim Scheib reported that the I.O.U. is doing well financially. The Board discussed budgeting money for the meeting fund for future I.O.U. meetings.

The Board discussed and approved the 1998 I.O.U. budget.

BOOK REVIEW

Missouri Breeding Bird Atlas 1986-1992 by Brad Jacobs and James D. Wilson. Natural History Series No. 6, Missouri Department of Conservation, Jefferson City, 1997. 430 pp., softbound, \$11. This is the second state adjacent to Iowa (after South Dakota) to publish a breeding bird atlas. Missouri's atlas project divided the state into 7.5-minute quadrangles. Within each quadrangle, one of six 25-square kilometer blocks was selected for surveying. More than 400 volunteers surveyed 1207 of the 1210 blocks, an impressive coverage. The usual introductory chapters describe the methods, terminology, limitations of the data, and natural regions of the state. As in other atlases, most of the book consists of the species counts. Each account is presented on two pages and includes a line drawing of the species, brief paragraphs describing the species' usual habitat, code frequency, distribution, abundance, phenology, and notes. A map on the facing page shows where breeding was confirmed, probable, or possible in each of the blocks. Several innovations provide brief but useful summaries of several aspects of biology of the species. A box summarizes data on overall distribution, breeding habitat, and several nesting parameters. A map shows the number of individuals detected per 100 stops (based on Breeding Bird Survey data) in each natural region of Missouri. Finally, a graph showing the seasonal distribution of when each species was found nest building, at a nest with eggs or young, or fledglings were seen provides a useful summary of the nesting phenology for most species. Appendices describing block location and coverage, data used for the abundance information, species reported but not confirmed as nesting, and rates of cowbird parasitism along with a literature cited section complete the book.

As in all atlases, the maps are what interest most people including this reviewer. In general I was impressed by the thoroughness of coverage. I was also impressed in how the range maps for some species matched and others did not match what we find in Iowa. Most surprising to me was the scarcity of reports in northern Missouri of several "southern" species that although uncommon, are still regular in southern Iowa. These include Chuck-will's-widow, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Louisiana Worm-eating Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler. The maps in this atlas suggest that most of these species should be absent or very rare in Iowa. These apparent breaks in their ranges more likely are a function of somewhat less intensive sampling in northern Missouri and the use of priority blocks in the Iowa atlas. This book is a bargain and is full of much useful information for Iowa birders.--James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014





The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

EDITORIAL STAFF

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Robert Cecil, Winter Field Reports Editor, 1315 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50311
James J. Dinsmore, Summer Field Reports Editor, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014
Stephen J. Dinsmore, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 612 1/2 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, CO 80521
Thomas H. Kent, Spring and Fall Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246
Peter C. Petersen, Spring Bird Count Editor, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, IA 52803

SUBSCRIPTION/MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$20 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$20); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member without publications (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$20 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the I.O.U.); and Life (\$300 as single payment or \$75 for each of four years). Members will also receive the quarterly *I.O.U. News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to Jim Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, IA 52240

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, contact the editor. Manuscripts may also be submitted on computer disk (Word 4.0 for Macintosh or compatible programs). Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript with the disk.

OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Mark Proescholdt, President (1999), Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148
Ann Johnson, Vice-President (1999), 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211
Mary Kuhlman, Secretary (1998), 1300 N. 29th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Jim Scheib, Treasurer (1998), 10 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, IA 52240
Other members of the Board of Directors: Beth Brown (1998), Dan Dorrance (1998), Maridel Jackson (1999), Curt Nelson (1999), and Carol A. Thompson (1999).

STANDING COMMITTEES

Publications: Harold White (chair), Ann M. Barker, Dan Dorrance, Jim Durbin, Ron Muilenburg
Records: Thomas H. Kent (secretary), Chris Edwards, James L. Fuller, Ann Johnson, Matthew C. Kenne, Francis L. Moore, Ross Silcock.
Membership: Beth Brown (chair), Jane Clark, Maridel Jackson, Curt Nelson, Jim Scheib.
Library/Historical: Barb Bettis, Dennis Carter, Sue Spieker, Jan Walters, Hank Zaletel.

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

15-17 May 1998, Ames

11-13 September 1998, Des Moines

May 1999, Rathbun/Centerville area

FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (Robert Cecil, 1315 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50311)

*Spring (Mar, Apr, May)--3 June (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

*Summer (Jun, Jul)--3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014)

*Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)--3 December (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

*Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions write: Stephen J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014.

IOWA BIRDLINE 319-338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

I.O.U. HOMEPAGE: <http://storm.simpson.edu/~birding/>

I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (Hank and Linda Zaletel, 1928 6th St., Nevada, IA 50201).

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014):

*Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.

*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1996 Edition: 25 for \$8.00, postpaid. Also available at annual meetings.

REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is 402-292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Jim Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll., Iowa City, IA 52240

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